(a) whether Government are aware of the recent statement made by the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister alleging that RAW is planning to assassinate key men in Sri Lankan Government to destabilise it and that some persons have been arrested in connection with the alleged plot by RAW; and

(b) if so, what is the basis on which such an allegation has been made by Sri Lankan Foreign Minister and what is the reaction of the Government of India with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As already clarified in a statement of the official spokesman, on February 16, these allegations are entirely baseless.

Proposal to increase the telecast time of the second channel of Madras

197. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to increase the telecast time of the Second Channel, Madras, so that the T.V. Viewers could get alternative programmes; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be increased?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The telecast time of second channel of Doordarshan Kendra, Madras, has already been increased by one hour with effect from 26th January, 1990.

Technology mission on advancement of Tele-Communications in the country

198. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to continue their efforts to implement the Technology Mission on advancement of Tele-Communications in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the achievements of Government in improving Tele-Communications facility specially in backward and tribal areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (b) The technology mission in the field of telecommunication is called "Mission-Better Communication". It is due to end of 31st March, 1990. However, the main components of the Telecom. Mission are: improvement in quality of service and accessibility to Telecom. facilities. Both these are continuing programmes of the Department of Telecommunications.

(c) Significant achievements have been made in improving the Telecom. facilities, specially in backward and tribal areas, as indicated below:

Sl. No.	Activity	Achievements 1988-89
1.	Telephone exchanges commissioned	580
2.	Exchange capacity added (lines)	1,40,000
3.	New lines provided	1,16,700
4.	Long distance PCOs opened	350
5.	Earth Stations provided	2

Places linked with the National Telephone Network in Orissa

199. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places in Orissa which have been linked with the National Telephone Network so far; and